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## The Parthenon, February 8, 2012

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WEDNESDAY  
February 8, 2012

# THE PARTHENON

VOL. 115 NO. 79 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

## 'THE COAL PROJECT'

## June Harless Center takes Cabell County teachers underground

BY HILARY FREEMAN  
THE PARTHENON

Several teachers in Cabell County got a chance to get up, close and personal with coal — a resource often considered the heartbeat of West Virginia

"The Coal Project," ran by Marshall University's June Harless Center, took 23 teachers from Cabell County schools and did an intense study of coal in the math, science, art and social studies fields.

Steve Beckelhimer, the director of the Coal Project, said it was a good look at modern coal from a purely education perspective.

"The only thing the public really sees is coal is either the great Satan or that coal is a great savior and there was nothing that really looks at coal for what coal really is," Beckelhimer said.

Beckelhimer said

Cabell County was chosen because, unlike other counties, Cabell is not a mining community and is not as aware of the impacts of coal on the state, community or the culture.

"You would be surprised by how many teachers still believed coal miners were on the ground wearing kneepads with helmet lights using picks to get the coal," Beckelhimer said.

The teachers were given lessons online on the geology, history and extraction techniques of coal in West Virginia.

Near the end of the program, the educators were taken on a trip to mines all across the state, starting with mines created in the 1820s then to a 1930s mine owned by Henry Ford to create steel for the Model T and finally a modern mine.

"We showed them Beckley's Terex Caterpillar who designs, builds,

and creates million-dollar mining machines in West Virginia that are controlled by a joystick outside of the mine," said Beckelhimer. "The machine will mine coal but no miner has to go underground and put their life in danger."

The group of teachers was shown a variety of reclaimed land — land that had previously been strip-mined.

"We went to a mine from the 1970s that was so poorly reclaimed that it was biologically a desert," Beckelhimer said. "It was green but had zero wildlife. But then we went to Logan County where the land had been reclaimed right. Most of us couldn't believe there had ever been a mine here."

After the teachers arrived home, they created lesson plans for their classes that dealt with coal and its many facets — math, science, environmental science, social studies and history all now



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cabell County school teachers learn more about the coal industry through math, science, art and social studies during "The Coal Project."

have plans available to the public that involve coal and its complexity.

"It (The Coal Project)

was to see how the history, science, math, art and music all came together to cultivate this culture,"

Beckelhimer said.

Hilary Freeman can be contacted at [roush89@marshall.edu](mailto:roush89@marshall.edu).

## Uncovering the Forensic Science Center

BY ALLYSON WARNER  
THE PARTHENON

The Forensic Science Center is a building many students forget about since it is not located on the main Marshall campus. But it is not only an important part of the university, it is important to both the Huntington and West Virginia State Police.

The center offers various areas of emphasis, including DNA, digital forensics, forensic chemistry and crime scene investigation.

"It is a two year program that students come in with a bachelor's degree usually with chemistry, biology, physics, and so forth," said Terry Fenger, Marshall University Forensic Science Center director.

The forensics program not only aids Marshall students with their education, but it also helps the Huntington Police Department solve crimes.

Fenger said they help the Huntington and West Virginia State police in a couple projects, including DNA testing and digital forensics investigation. Officers and detectives can complete their training at the center.

In DNA testing, the center

assists police with DNA samples that are left behind in a property based crime, such as a break-in. These samples are sent to the Forensic Science Center for review.

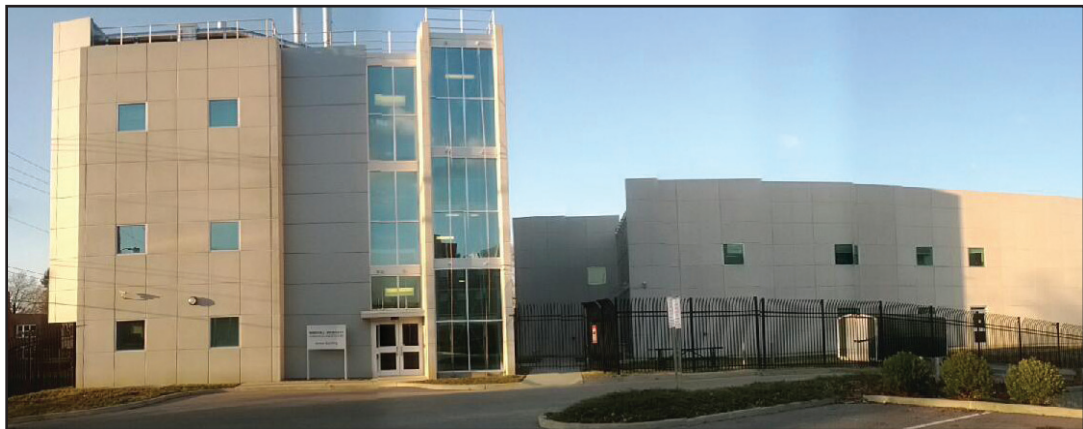
In addition to the academic side of the forensics program, there are also labo-

cases, and we process the digital evidence," Mary Thomasson, of Public Information, said.

While the crime laboratories are accredited to work with the police, students are not allowed in the crime labs. Only autho-

"We have to not only have the equipment that is state of the art, but it has to be maintained" Fenger said. "It is not only hard but expensive as well."

The Forensic Science Center has students from all over the country, but



ALLYSON WARNER | THE PARTHENON

The Forensic Science Center, located near Hal Greer Boulevard, benefits Marshall students, Huntington police and West Virginia State Police.

ratories that do DNA testing for criminal casework and DNA testing on convicted offenders for the state of West Virginia.

The West Virginia State Police also work in conjunction with the digital forensics operation at the center. They work on cases that involve computers, cells phones and anything that is digital.

"Federal agents send us

rized people in the building can handle real evidence.

Students work in completely separate labs where they are trained on all the equipment they use for the DNA testing.

Updated equipment is very important for the program's success. In order for it to keep everything up to date, companies visit the center to make sure equipment is working perfectly.

Fenger encourages Marshall students to apply to the program.

"It's hard to get into the program but that doesn't mean there's not a lot of qualified people at Marshall," Fenger said.

The center is located on 1401 Forensic Science Drive, near Hal Greer Boulevard.

Allyson Warner can be contacted at [warner65@marshall.edu](mailto:warner65@marshall.edu).

## Students smell drains to keep campus safe

BY CHRISTINA CARRION  
THE PARTHENON

The Physical Plant and the Environmental Health and Safety Department are asking students to look for illegal dumping or sewer water in storm drains on Marshall's campus.

The departments check the storm drains annually, but realize students are in a better position to report any problems because they are always on campus.

"An illicit discharge is anything is going through a storm drain that is not storm water, that is not related to rainwater or snow melt," said Travis Bailey, environmental specialist, "it can even be considered illegal dumping."

Oil and anti-freeze are two common liquids illegally dumped in a storm drain.

"There is no reason to dump it down the drain," Bailey said. "Oil and antifreeze could be taken to an auto parts store, such as Advance Auto Parts, and recycled."

"It might cause some inconvenience but dumping pollutes our drinking water — not only ours but all the towns' drinking water downstream as well.

"We are trying to prevent that," Bailey said. "We want to get that information out to the students. That way, if they are walking by a storm drain and they see sewer or they smell sewer, then they can call the physical plant."

Bailey said the plant is also concerned with pollutants in cross-connection lines.

"Cross connections are sanitary sewer lines connected to a storm drain," Bailey said. "Ultimately, storm drains go to the Ohio River."

Most of Huntington's sewer lines are connected to storm drains that flow straight to a wastewater treatment plant. However, a rainstorm can cause an overflow in the combined waste and storm water drains resulting in an untreated flow into the Ohio River.

"When the city was

See DRAINS | Page 5





# Rec Center celebrates third anniversary with contests, giveaways

THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University Recreation Center celebrated its third anniversary with a contest and giveaways Monday.

Michele Muth, assistant director of marketing and memberships, said the event was a success.

"I thought it went really well," Muth said. "A lot of the gifts we tried to give away, most of them went."

Students needed to follow the Rec Center on Twitter or Facebook to be entered to win a prize. There, students were given clues to bring to the front desk.

Muth said participants were more likely to come in and act on subtle requests to win a prize.

"A couple of times we tried to get them to come in and sing 'Happy Birthday' at the front desk, and no one came in and did that," Muth said. "But if it was just to say a word or something, those were picked up."

One student who won a free massage tweeted that "Recaversary" was her "new

favorite holiday."

Muth said the competition helped to increase the Rec Center's followers on Twitter, which was part of its goal.

"We're trying to pick up on the Twitter followers because when anybody has a question or anything, it's real easy for me to get (an answer) out," Muth said. "It's easy to stay in the loop that way."

Muth said another popular aspect of the celebration was the free body fat assessments. The tests were given from noon through 4 p.m. on the second floor of the Rec Center.

Overall, Muth said she thinks the event was a success, and it's something the center looks forward to doing again.

"It gets better and better every year," Muth said. "We definitely will celebrate it (in the future)."

If students need to contact the Rec Center with any questions or comments, they can follow on Twitter @MURecreation. Muth said she personally responds to the tweets on behalf of the Rec Center.



MARCUS CONSTANTINO|THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's Recreation Center celebrates its third anniversary Monday. Members of the Marshall and Huntington community were invited to celebrate with contests and giveaways. Students could enter to win a prize by following the Rec Center on Twitter or Facebook and following clues.

# SGA prepares for spring elections with filing day

BY ZACHARY MORRIS  
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University Student Government Association met this week to determine the filing day for the spring election cycle.

The SGA decided the filing day would be Feb. 21. Filing day is an opportunity for any interested students to attend an interest meeting and obtain information about running for a position in the SGA. Interested students have the option to run for a senator position within their college or the president/vice-president candidate position.

"I'm absolutely looking forward to elections," said Adam Fridley, senate president pro-tempore. "It's a great chance for students to get involved, whether or not they are currently involved in SGA, and it puts our name out there."

During the interest meeting, students will be given a hard copy of the election rules as well as have any of their questions answered. As soon as the meeting is over, the campaign period starts and will continue for two weeks until elections on March 6 and 7.

"It creates a buzz around campus," said Kelly

You have a voice, and you really can make a positive difference."

> Kelly Kutzavitch

Kutzavitch, student body vice president. "Suddenly, people know who you are, and they're paying attention to something. For myself, it challenged my perseverance, how much I wanted to do it and my mental endurance.

"Every day, we were using all forms of social media and talking to everyone about what we wanted to do," she

said. "I thought this was something I'd never be able to accomplish."

During the campaign process, students can look forward to the debates. These will provide students an opportunity to ask questions to candidates through certain topics and an open forum.

"My favorite part of

elections is just the experience," Fridley said. "It is a great chance for students to get out there, sell themselves and their qualifications to the students. It really provides an opportunity for students to step up and bring about the changes on campus they would like to see."

At the end of the voting period, a meeting is conducted with all of the students running for a position where the results of the election are released. Positions won't officially take place until the inauguration of the new officers.

The first meeting with the new SGA officers and senators

will be a double meeting that will contain the current and new SGA.

"Students can look forward to personal development and make this a better community," Kutzavitch said. "Whether it is Marshall or Huntington, you really do have an impact on the social, cultural and academic life. It's a great resume builder, you gain experience and you get involved with your college. You really do represent your college and can bring any concerns of them to the SGA. You have a voice, and you really can make a positive difference."

Zachary Morris can be reached at morris243@marshall.edu.

# WMUL enjoys successful award season

BY REBECCA STEPHENS  
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's student radio station, WMUL-FM, is enjoying a successful competition season for the 2011-2012 year, having won 36 awards to date.

This competition season is the first time WMUL-FM submitted entries to the International AVA Awards. All 10 entries received recognition, which included four Platinum Awards, four Gold Awards and two Honorable Mentions.

Charles Bailey, faculty manager of the station, said this is the second time the station has entered a competition in which all the submissions were awarded.

"Everything we sent in won something, and that's unreal," Bailey said.

Leannnda Carey, graduate student and station manager of the station, echoed Bailey's thoughts.

"We were pretty pleased with the result - 100 percent success rate," Carey said. "No disappointments there."

The radio station submitted entries and earned 26 awards from several other competitions including: The College Broadcasters,



Inc. Awards, the Associated Collegiate Press Competition, the MarCom Creative Awards and the Davey Awards.

The AVA Awards, the MarCom Creative Awards and the Davey Awards are international competitions in which professionals and students compete.

"We do pretty well on these international circuit of awards," Carey said. "I don't think a lot of people realize the success we have outside of student competitions and local competitions."

Carey received a Gold

Davey Award for her news feature "Serving Students: Jessica Jordan."

It is the first gold Davey Award for the station.

Carey said there are other competitions the station entered where the results have yet to be announced. These include the Society of Professional Journalists, Communicator and the Broadcast Education Association.

Carey said the radio station is still waiting for the results of the awards for the National Broadcasting Society.

"That's usually a big one

for us," Carey said. "We usually have a pretty high success rate with that."

Carey said the station will also enter the West Virginia Associated Press Broadcasters Association Awards and the Hermes Awards in March.

Carey said she hopes future awards and competitions will allow the station to one-up itself and to find new ways to win awards.

"The way we've been winning awards is great, but I like it when we try something new," Carey said. "I

See WMUL I Page 5

# College Goal Sunday set for this weekend

BY ANDREW FROBEL  
THE PARTHENON

Three years ago, the College Goal Sunday fell on the same weekend as Financial Aid Awareness week.

The financial aid staff is mainly promoting the College Goal Sunday by hosting the Financial Aid Awareness Week this week.

Angela Holley, statewide coordinator of West Virginia College Goal Sunday said the event offers free help completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). She said College Goal Sunday workshops would be hosted at 19 locations across West Virginia on Sunday.

Kathy Bialk, director of financial aid said College Goal Sunday is not just an event that takes place at Marshall University.

"It is a national event that takes place each year at different universities

across the map," Bialk said.

Anyone who plans on attending college and current college students should complete a FAFSA. Parents can attend the event to learn more or to complete the FAFSA on behalf of their student.

"The deadline for financial aid for the West Virginia grant is April 16," Bialk said. "If any students miss this deadline, they will have to borrow more money towards student loans."

Pre-registration is encouraged and can be completed on the College Foundation of West Virginia's website at cfwv.com.

Students can register online and be eligible to win prizes. Marshall's Office of Financial Aid said an Apple iPad would be given away to one participant at each of the 19 locations.

Andrew Frobel can be contacted at frobel@marshall.edu.



# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

## DOWN THE HOME STRETCH



### Thundering Herd hopes to take season series from Knights

BY ADAM ROGERS  
THE PARTHENON

Marshall men’s basketball hits the road again Wednesday night when it travels to Orlando, Fla. to take on the University of Central Florida Knights.

The Thundering Herd is looking to sweep the season series from the Knights after a 65-64 win in Huntington earlier this season on Jan. 14.

At the start of the 2012 portion of the schedule, Marshall lost just three times.

The Thundering Herd has now lost five of its last six, but senior guards Damier Pitts and Shaquille Johnson said the season is not close to being over.

“We’ve lost a few games lately, but we’ve been playing really hard, and we’ve been practicing really well,” Pitts said. “I just feel like we’ve got to put the pieces together, and I think we’ll make a good run toward the end of the year. I don’t see any teams remaining on our schedule that can flat out beat us, and I feel like we’re going to be in every game from here on out.”

“I still think we have a lot of season left, with seven games remaining,”

Johnson said. “It’s a big stretch right here, and these next few games can make the rest of our season.”

Four of Marshall’s last five losses have come on the road and head coach Tom Herrion said playing on the road presents challenges all in itself.

“Once we play UCF, we’ll have played the most road games in conference to date,” Herrion said. “We knew the schedule a long time ago so we’ve got to embrace it, and embrace the challenges. We’ll be stronger for it as we come down the home stretch.”

Marshall has won five of the last six against UCF, including the win earlier this season, but Johnson said the Herd has no extra edge coming into Wednesday night’s contest.

“It’s just another game,” Johnson said. “A game we need to win though, to get back on track. (We want) to come into their stands and let everybody know we’re still capable of being in the NCAA tournament.”

Herrion said the Thundering Herd has not been playing its best basketball as of late and knows that is what needs to happen for the team to get back on track.

“We haven’t played our

best basketball, clearly and that’s our goal,” Herrion said. “We want to be playing our best basketball coming down the stretch at some point down the latter part in conference play, heading into the conference tournament.”

Marshall might find it difficult to play its best basketball in Orlando, Fla., however, with the team’s leading scorer’s playing status questionable.

DeAndre Kane’s father, Calvin Kane, died early Tuesday morning in his hometown of Pittsburgh.

According to a release from the Department of Athletics, “final arrangements are still being made at this time. Therefore, Kane’s playing status for Marshall’s game at UCF Wednesday is uncertain.”

“Our thoughts and prayers are with DeAndre and his family during this difficult and trying time,” Herrion said in the release. “He will have the support of our program as well as the entire Marshall family.”

Tip-off between the Thundering Herd and Knights is set to begin at 7 p.m. from UCF Arena.

Adam Rogers can be contacted at [rogers112@marshall.edu](mailto:rogers112@marshall.edu).

MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Senior guard Damier Pitts drives down the court searching for an outlet pass during the Herd’s 65-64 win over UCF on Jan. 14 at the Cam Henderson Center. Marshall has not won a season series since 2010.

#### COLUMN

### Herd and Knights get dirty

Rivalry game between Marshall and UCF has taken to the streets in last three contests as feud continues to grow



JAKE SNYDER  
SPORTS EDITOR

Forget the boxing gloves, the bell and Michael Buffer.

No, this game is nothing like a heavyweight boxing match. This game is something much more raw.

It’s the Hatfields vs. the McCoys. The Jets vs. the Sharks. Donald Trump vs. Rosie O’Donnell.

The Marshall and UCF rivalry is not bound by the standards of civilized society. In fact, it’s downright dirty.

My first exhibit: Last season, Marshall took the road down to Orlando to play in UCF Arena just as

they will Wednesday. And the Herd got hot. No, it wasn’t the kind of heat you want on the court. It was the get sweaty, cramp up kind of heat.

At least that’s what head coach Tom Herrion thought as he noted several players cramping up, as well as becoming dizzy himself at one point.

Was it true?

The world may never know. But it was enough to move the UCF administration to deem the upcoming contest “Heat up the Herd” night, asking fans to wear their beach gear. In fact, the official UCF Athletics Facebook page encouraged UCF fans to, “to wear your swim trunks, bring your sunglasses and put on your sun tan lotion because we’re really going to make them sweat!”

Sounds hot.

Exhibit number two: This year, when the Knights came to Huntington, the players were quick to point out several flaws in their hotel

accommodations. Senior A.J. Rompza took to Twitter letting the world know he was blown away by the lack of flat screen televisions and an empty vending machine. Freshman Kasey Wilson was not pleased with a bit of peeling wallpaper in his room.

The tweets set off a firestorm between Herd and Knight fans that continued onto the court where Rompza received a hardy jeer every time he touched the ball.

He later apologized for offending anyone from Huntington.

Exhibit three: Who didn’t catch Tom Herrion’s disastrous flop on the court during that same game? The obligatory tumble and following stumble led Herrion’s antics to show up on ESPN and CBS Sports, along with a flourish of social media comments.

ESPN columnist Dana O’Neil went as far as to make an argument for Herrion as “Best Supporting Actor” for the

upcoming Oscars.

By the way, the flagrant foul that Herrion gathered due to the fall had direct impact in the game. The Herd made the two free throws and won the game by one.

And the fall did not go unnoticed by the UCF fans. One fan even tweeted a picture this week of Herrion’s face superimposed on the Burger King royalty, donning Marshall, “Home of the Flopper.”

Another saga of this battle begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday. And with the Knights’ departure for the Big East imminent, no one knows how many chapters are left.

So turn up the heat, UCF. Hope the accommodations are better at home, Mr. Rompza. Take a dive, Coach Herrion. It’s an ever-present reminder that, sometimes, life isn’t fair. And sometimes, it’s okay to get a little dirty.

Jake Snyder can be contacted at [snyder100@marshall.edu](mailto:snyder100@marshall.edu).



### Around the league...

MEMPHIS  
ECU

7:00 PM

The Tigers step back into C-USA play, after a 72-68 win over Xavier, against a Pirates team that has won three straight.

USM  
UAB

8:00 PM

The Golden Eagles are looking to stay atop the league, while the Blazers hope to avenge a four point loss back on Jan. 14.

RICE  
HOUSTON

8:00 PM

Less than seven miles and one game in C-USA separates these two teams as they meet for the first time this season.

TCU  
SMU

8:00 PM

SMU has lost five straight, but looks to end that against Metroplex rival TCU, who is unbeaten versus teams from Texas.

TULSA  
UTEP

9:00 PM

UTEP wants revenge from an 11-point loss earlier this year and the Tulsa is the hottest team in C-USA, having won seven straight.



# OPINION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 , 2012 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

## THE PARTHENON

### ABOUT US

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Mondays through Fridays during the regular semesters, and weekly Thursdays during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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### THE FIRST AMENDMENT

**The Constitution of the United States of America**

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

#### COLUMN

## The Oscars could be more than what they have become

BY JORDAN BEAN  
THE PARTHENON

I'm a movie snob. No kidding, one of my favorite things to do is go to a movie and scoff at how ridiculous the previews are. There's something fun about it, I guess, critiquing other people's art in the comfort of a dark theater where no one can identify me. So when I saw the Oscar lineup for this year, I was a little confused. And sad. 2011 wasn't really a great year for movies.

You can agree or disagree: I realize it's all subject to opinion. But I just don't think 2011 and 2012 were comparable. Not by a long shot. Quite a few of the Best Picture nominees this year got below 50 percent on Rotten Tomatoes, which can be argued with "Critics don't matter, blah, blah, blah..." and ultimately, you're right. Your opinion is the only one that counts when you're watching something for your own pleasure. But less than 50 percent ratings mean people didn't really like the movies that have been deemed the best of 2012.

I know this isn't groundbreaking news because, ultimately, The Oscars are just a collection of the richest, prettiest people in film congratulating each other on being rich and pretty, but it's also a pretty clear indicator of what our country is being subjected to on a regular basis. Most movies that are nominated for

Oscars end up grossing huge amounts of money (money spent by us), and though not everyone came out of "The Descendants" thinking "gee, I'm definitely going to start modeling my parenting techniques after George Clooney." Society changes on the regular, and part of what changes society is the influence of media like movies, music and the Internet.

It's all about what people are subjected to. An event like The Oscars has the potential to make us a smarter country. A more informed country. A country about living for other people or keeping things together or being more informed. And I just don't feel like many of the nominees this year do that. "The Artist," totally. "Hugo," oh yeah. "The Help," yes. The rest? I just don't see it. I'm talking Best Picture nominees.

My point is that I wish there were more of an emphasis being put on development, change, improvement and new ideas. Not retelling the same story and giving "Brangelina" more money so they can adopt more children. The academy has been given a major opportunity to make major changes, and they aren't. They're just congratulating the same people again and again and again. Mostly.

Jordan Bean can be contacted at bean19@marshall.edu.

17.3

is the percentage of West Virginia residents older than 25 with a bachelor's degree or higher.  
> 2010 U.S. CENSUS

#### EDITORIAL

## An executive order is in line to combat workplace discrimination

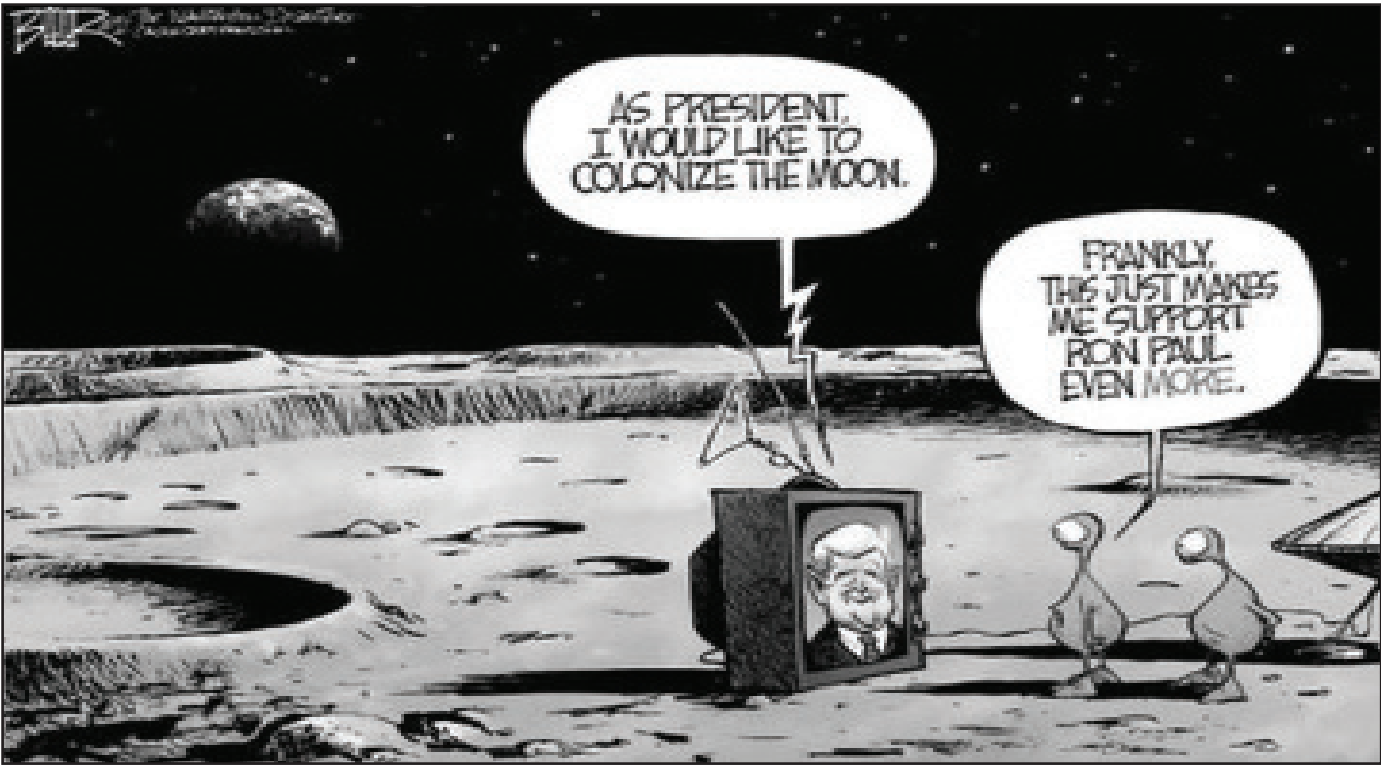
In a recent instance, a contractor who received federal money to perform projects for the government decided to ban workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation. What did it take for this to occur? Well, it took 50,000 signatures on an online petition before the company decided to ban, officially, workplace discriminations against these individuals. Under federal law, however, such amendments are not necessary for companies to take. The company in mention is DynCorp, a contractor that received billions in federal money to complete projects. They were one of many companies of which the United States government had been dealing with that did not protect all individuals, regardless of sexuality. Why should taxpayer money be given to companies that discriminate against gay individuals?

However, if he wished to, President Barack Obama could put a stop to discrimination based upon sexual orientation with one executive order. And what good reason does he have not to put a stop to senseless discriminatory practices? Do not give American, taxpayer money to contractors that discriminate against gays. If this decision were made, it could possibly lead to a broader legislation to be passed to make it illegal

for more employers to discriminate against individuals based upon their sexual orientation. Presidents throughout history have given executive orders to stop discriminatory practices based on "race, creed, color and national origin." The same should be done for gay individuals. Laws during these epochs were changed based upon critical thought and an attempt at a more egalitarian society. In our epoch, these laws should now make it illegal to discriminate against sexual orientation.

All is not lost, however. Twenty-one states have banned discrimination against sexual orientation, according to a researcher at Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law and Public Policy. Also, only about half of Americans are protected from discriminatory workplace practices. A move should be made to allow every American the right to not be discriminated against. Contractors that the federal government hires should be held responsible and not discriminate against individuals based on sexual orientation. To expedite this process, President Obama should issue an executive order making it illegal for such practices.

#### POLITICAL CARTOON



#### COLUMN

## The drums of war are still are ringing, Iran seems inevitable

As one war ends, another conflict is on the horizon. Iran now seems like Iraq did 10 years ago. Are we setting the stage for another decade of war?

BY ANGELO FIORAVANTE  
THE PARTHENON

I hear drums, and I am not talking about Occupy protestors. The drums of war haven't stopped for more than 10 years. My country has been at war for almost half my life (I am 22), and we are just now bringing Iraq and Afghanistan to an "end."

President Barack Obama's war narrative follows George W. Bush's war narrative. Bush pushed Iraq, Iran and North Korea away from us with his Axis of Evil speech while President Obama prepares a proxy war with China over oil in Iran. Of course the Iranians are working on a nuclear weapon.

What other reason did we need to invade Iraq? Weapons of Mass Destruction. This is the same song and dance except, this time Israel wants us to invade. Maybe the invasion of Iraq was a typo and President Obama is fixing a Bush's era mistake?

Recently President Obama went on a trip to Australia to announce a re-shaping of American forces

to focus our military on the Pacific. He never overtly said this was because he is worried about China flexing its new military muscle, but even the dimmest political analyst can see a Cold War balance of power mentality behind it. The Atlantic doesn't terrify the United States anymore. The U.S. is not afraid of the Germans anymore. So are we afraid of the Iranians or the Chinese? Neither. And that is why any conflict with both of these powers is a waste of time, money and human lives.

Iran is a red herring created by Israel and the military-industrial complex, and we have more to lose than to gain in a war with China.

Recently, the U.S. and Europe and other nations have agreed to end imports of Iranian oil and freeze Iranian assets. This isn't a big problem for Iran, but a gift to China.

Everyone is buying oil. Not everyone is selling it. If Europe won't buy Iranian oil the energy hungry East will. Hence the drums I hear. The nuclear weapons are a ruse — albeit a

terrifying ruse worth finding a diplomatic solution. Iran does not have the capability of reaching the U.S. with any nuclear missiles, and is not a direct threat to the U.S. and therefore not that big of a concern.

The Iranian question is the same as the Israel question. Those weapons (if they exist and are being developed) are being built to counter Israeli. How long are we going to prop up Israel and help fight their battles with human lives?

Obama could maintain a level head, keep ground troops out of Iran and focus on his pet project, The Arab Spring, while continuing to keep isolationist policies. The wise action would be to crush the Iranian economy and allow their own citizens to revolt against the theocracy. Any new government put in place by an invading American force would have no legitimacy.

Ali Khameni can be the next Gaddafi if we continue our isolationist policy or Ali Khameni can be the next Fidel Castro with China playing the part of the USSR. Obama may act as he did during the Libyan

Civil War and use a limited military response to Iran.

This is a more reasonable response than ground troops, but Iran may respond either against the U.S. or our allies — thus leading to ground troops which is an unacceptable risk.

I doubt Obama or any of the Republican presidential candidates, except for Ron Paul, could resist the temptations of another war: Good for the economy, appeases the military industrial complex, a spirit of international submission to American policies. I would be mentioning Congress, whom constitutionally is the only body that can declare war, but sadly that is not the modern paradigm.

If Israel is worried about Iran joining the nuclear club let them pick that fight. Ten years from now, I don't want to be worried about celebrating the returning Iranian war heroes. I didn't ask to be born in a world of endless war and neither are the kids being born now.

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# Appeals court strikes down Calif. ban on gay marriage

BY HOWARD MINTZ  
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS  
(MCT)

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court on Tuesday struck down Proposition 8, finding that California’s ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional because it deprives gay and lesbian couples of the equal right to wed.

With a decision that pushes the gay marriage issue a step closer to the U.S. Supreme Court, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld former San Francisco Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker, who invalidated Proposition 8 in 2010 after conducting an unprecedented trial.

“Proposition 8 serves no purpose, and has no effect, other than to lessen the status and human dignity of gays and lesbians in California, and to officially reclassify their relationships and families as inferior to those of opposite-sex couples,” Judge Stephen Reinhardt wrote, joined by Judge Michael Daly Hawkins.

Judge N. Randy Smith dissented, saying there were “legitimate governmental interests” in restricting the definition of marriage to a union between a man and woman.

Proposition 8 backers can now ask the 9th Circuit to rehear the case with an 11-judge panel, or proceed directly to the Supreme Court. Smith’s dissent could be a strong indicator there will be some support within the court to take a second look at the case.

The appeals court also rejected the argument that Walker’s ruling should be scrapped because he did not disclose he was in a long-term same-sex relationship while he was handling the case. Smith joined in that part of the ruling.

As a result of the continued legal wrangling, same-sex marriages are not expected to resume in



WALLY SKALLI/LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Gay activist Ivy Bottini, receives a hug from Rick Watts after a press conference in West Hollywood, California, Tuesday, February 7, 2012. A Federal appeals court struck down California’s ban on same-sex marriage clearing the way for the U.S. Supreme Court to rule on gay marriage.

California any time soon, with further appeals likely to stretch at least into next year.

In the ruling, Reinhardt, considered one of the nation’s most liberal judges, relied heavily on the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1996 decision striking down a Colorado law that stripped gays and lesbians of protections against discrimination there.

The ruling, however, was focused on California’s circumstances, notably the fact Proposition 8 took away the right of same-sex couples to marry that had been established in a 2008 California Supreme Court decision.

The 9th Circuit did not declare a fundamental right for same-sex couples to marry, a broader definition that could have undercut

bans on gay marriage in four other western states.

Gay marriage advocates cheered the ruling. California Attorney General Kamala Harris, who refused to defend the law in the 9th Circuit, called the decision a “victory for fairness.”

And California Gov. Jerry Brown, who also has refused to defend Proposition 8, issued a statement saying the ruling is “a powerful affirmation of the right of same-sex couples to marry.”

The appeals court’s ruling marks another setback for gay marriage opponents, who passed Proposition 8 in 2008 by a 52 to 48 percent margin.

“No court should presume to redefine marriage,” said Brian Raum, senior counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund. “We

are not surprised that this Hollywood-orchestrated attack on marriage — tried in San Francisco — turned out this way. But we are confident that the expressed will of the American people in favor of marriage will be upheld in the Supreme Court.”

Proposition 8 restored California’s gay marriage ban, trumping a state Supreme Court ruling earlier in 2008 that had invalidated California’s prior laws forbidding same-sex nuptials.

Backed by gay rights advocates and the city of San Francisco, two gay couples sued to overturn Proposition 8 in 2009, openly describing the case as an opportunity to force the U.S. Supreme Court to take on the gay marriage issue.

Kristin Perry and Sandy Stier, a Berkeley couple,

signed on to the lawsuit, which was crafted by two of the nation’s top lawyers, David Boies and former U.S. Solicitor General Theodore Olson.

The legal challenge has not affected the roughly 18,000 couples who married in the window of time before voters restored the gay marriage ban, creating a two-tiered system of relationships for gay and lesbian couples in California. Gay rights advocates argued that the circumstances underscored the legal weakness in outlawing same-sex marriage, but Proposition 8 supporters disagreed, saying the state’s strong domestic partner protections are sufficient.

Lawyers for same-sex couples relied primarily on the argument that Proposition 8 violates federal equal protection rights,

saying the law has no social or legal basis other than a discriminatory intent against gays and lesbians. Proposition 8’s supporters argued that voters had an interest in preserving the traditional definition of marriage and its importance in procreation.

The 9th Circuit heard arguments in the case in December 2010, but put off a decision to let the California Supreme Court decide whether Proposition 8 supporters have a legal right to defend the law when the state’s top elected officials refuse to do so.

The state Supreme Court ruled last year that Proposition 8 backers do have that right, returning the case to the 9th Circuit. In Tuesday’s ruling, the 9th Circuit said it would abide by the state court’s decision.

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## AID Continued from Page 1

first built, a quarter inch of rain would make an overflow, but now it only takes a tenth of an inch,” Bailey said. “And with even a tenth of an inch, the city of Huntington can jump up to 60 million gallons of water within an hour.”

Bailey asks students to report any strange smells

emanating from a storm drain to the physical plant. Inspections will be conducted within 24 to 48 hours from the report.

“We want the students to get involved to help us clean up the environment, and help us clean up campus,” Bailey said. “That’s our goal,” Bailey said.

Christina Carrion can be contacted at [carrion@marshall.edu](mailto:carrion@marshall.edu).

## WMUL Continued from Page 2

would also hope we can stay in the elite among college radio stations. We do have a great radio station, and I just want students to continue to have the opportunity to show what they’re worth.”

Bailey said the success obtained from previous students helps current

students.

“Success builds on success,” Bailey said. “You learn from those that have gone before you, and what they’ve done and how they did it. If you’re a really motivated person with good work ethic, you want to do better than they did.”

Rebecca Stephens can be contacted at [stephens107@marshall.edu](mailto:stephens107@marshall.edu).



# \*Life!

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## Are we there yet?



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

**TOP LEFT:** Study abroad students gather on a day trip in Thailand.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Natalie Tupta (green jacket), Marshall student studying abroad in Saskatchewan, Canada, enjoys a ski trip with other international students.

**CENTER:** Cody Collins, Marshall student studying abroad, travels by foot through Bangkok, Thailand.

**ABOVE:** Tupta gathers with study abroad friends from around the world in Saskatchewan, Canada.

## Marshall students see the world

BY TRAVIS EASTER  
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University is offering its students the opportunity to see the world.

The study abroad office at Marshall offers many programs to help students travel and study all over the world. Marshall prepares between 150 and 200 students to go abroad each year.

This semester, there are 26 Marshall students studying abroad, in Thailand, New Zealand, England and many other countries.

“My trip abroad has been absolutely phenomenal,” said Natalie Tupta, classical Latin major from Charleston, who is studying this semester at the University of Regina in Saskatchewan, Canada. “I’ve been away for a month and it’s been the best month of my life.”

Marshall has agreements with universities in many countries around the world to offer students more opportunities to study abroad. The courses students can take at these universities can be counted as transfer credits towards graduation, allowing students to still graduate within their planned timeline.

“You can actually integrate study abroad into your academic schedule easily,” said Cody Collins, senior psychology and political science major studying in Bangkok,

Thailand. “You just have to look for the right university and the courses.”

Students do not need to know the local language in order to study abroad. The program offers trips to many locations where English is spoken. In locations where English is not spoken, most of the classes offered are taught in English.

For students who do not want to spend a semester, or even a year away, from home, Marshall offers faculty-led programs. Marshall professors lead small groups of students to another country for a few weeks over the summer to study a topic relevant to the country. In the past, groups have traveled to France, Ireland, Sweden and several other countries.

“I suggest everyone look into making study abroad a priority in their academic career,” Tupta said. “Whether they go abroad for a week, a summer, a semester or a year, they will have experiences and gain knowledge that they will not be able to find any other way.”

Marshall also offers an exchange program that allows students to “trade” places with a student from an international university. This program often makes study abroad more affordable. The program allows students to study in universities around the world, while still paying

Marshall’s tuition.

“One of the most unknown aspects of studying abroad is that it is very affordable,” said Ryan Warner, the study abroad adviser. “When a student pays Marshall the tuition and fees to go abroad, students can apply their scholarships, grants and financial aid to their program.”

Students are responsible for their travel cost and a refundable dormitory deposit. Financial aid and scholarships are offered to assist students with their academic travel expenses, including airline tickets.

Students interested in studying abroad should start the process as soon as possible, as some programs have an application deadline seven months before departure, Warner said.

“You don’t start planning an international trip a month before you leave,” Warner said.

The whole process, including application, orientation and paperwork, takes about eight months before students depart. Students should meet with an adviser at least one full semester before they plan to travel.

The study abroad advisers assist students all the way through the program.

“We work side-by-side with the student to ensure the student gathers all the information they need and understand each detail of the process,” Warner said.

The study abroad office offers students in the program with lectures and presentations to help students overcome issues they may face abroad, such as homesickness or the language barrier, and to help them integrate into a new society, sometimes with norms very different from their own.

“I haven’t really experienced culture shock in the ways that I’ve been warned I would, but I would say I have a little,” said Jessica Kesner, advertising major from Petersburg, W.Va., studying in Bangkok, Thailand. “Not speaking Thai, it’s often inconvenient, but it isn’t that much of a problem. Some people speak English, and most speak broken English enough to help you or point where you should go.”

To be eligible for study abroad, students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.75, be in good academic standing and be at least sophomore level. It is recommended that a student plan to travel in either their sophomore or junior year, so that their academic schedule offers more

flexibility.

Students interested in study abroad can begin their journey by setting up an advising session with Ryan Warner, the study abroad adviser in Old Main Room 321.

Travis Easter can be contacted at [easter14@marshall.edu](mailto:easter14@marshall.edu).

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